

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1998

903B0373

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1004

Introduced by: Representatives Wetz, Brooks, de Hueck, Diedrich, Duniphan, Fitzgerald, Hassard, Jaspers, Konold, Koskan, Madden, Pederson (Gordon), Pummel, Rost, and Wick and Senators Vitter, Benson, Hainje, Johnson (William), and Kleven

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the United States Senate to reject the Kyoto
2 Protocol on global warming.

3 WHEREAS, the United States is a signatory to the 1992 Rio Framework Convention on
4 Global Climate Change and has participated in international negotiations pursuant to a United
5 Nations agreement negotiated in Berlin in 1995 to expand the scope of the Rio Convention; and

6 WHEREAS, the Berlin Mandate required the United States and other advanced industrial
7 nations ("Annex I parties") to negotiate legally binding quantified emission limitation and
8 reduction objectives for greenhouse gases for the post-2000 period without increasing the
9 responsibilities of non-Annex I developing countries; and

10 WHEREAS, the United States and other Annex I parties to the Rio Convention on
11 December 10, 1997, in Kyoto, Japan, agreed to the "Kyoto Protocol" that would require
12 industrialized nations to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide by six
13 percent below 1990 levels by the years 2008-2012; and

14 WHEREAS, manmade emissions of greenhouse gases are caused primarily by the

1 combustion of oil, coal, and natural gas fuels by industries, automobiles, and other consumptive
2 uses of energy; and

3 WHEREAS, the United States relies on fossil fuels for more than ninety percent of its total
4 energy supply and has among the lowest energy prices among all industrial nations; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States will have great difficulty in meeting its emission reduction
6 target due to economic and population growth, notwithstanding the development of numerous
7 energy conservation and efficiency programs implemented by government and industry; and

8 WHEREAS, developing countries exempt from the Kyoto Protocol are expected to increase
9 their rates of economic growth and fossil fuel use over the next two decades and to surpass the
10 United States and other Annex I parties in total emissions of greenhouse gases; and

11 WHEREAS, the imposition of legally binding requirements for the reduction of greenhouse
12 gases by the United States and other Annex I parties would entail fundamental changes in our
13 patterns of energy production, consumption, and prices with potentially severe adverse
14 implications for workers, consumers, and industries dependent upon the production or use of
15 fossil fuel; and

16 WHEREAS, the exemption in the Kyoto Protocol for emission control obligations by
17 developing countries could create an unfair competitive imbalance between industrial and
18 developing nations to the detriment of job growth and economic development in the United
19 States; and

20 WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol could lead to the transfer of energy-intensive industries
21 overseas and increased emissions of greenhouse gases by developing nations, thereby offsetting
22 any environmental benefits associated with reductions achieved by the United States and other
23 Annex I parties; and

24 WHEREAS, emission reductions by Annex I parties alone cannot meaningfully change future
25 concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases or avert the risk of environmental damage from

1 climate change without global participation in the Rio Convention; and

2 WHEREAS, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions can be achieved most cost-effectively
3 by the gradual retirement and replacement of existing buildings, appliances, industrial plants,
4 equipment, and vehicles with more energy-efficient alternatives:

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
6 third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that this body calls
7 upon the United States Senate not to ratify any commitments pursuant to the Kyoto Protocol
8 that could lead to the loss of jobs, income, or economic development in the United States
9 without definite commitments by developing nations to participate in future global greenhouse
10 emission reduction efforts; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of South Dakota calls upon the
12 President of the United States to renegotiate the Kyoto Protocol or to take other appropriate
13 steps to ensure that all nations have made equal commitments to reduce emissions of greenhouse
14 gases, and to provide a timetable for emission reduction by Annex I parties consistent with the
15 orderly retirement and replacement of existing capital stock and equipment; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of South Dakota calls upon the United
17 States Senate to reject any proposed protocol or other amendment to the Rio Convention that
18 is inconsistent with this resolution or that does not ensure that at least seventy-five percent of
19 the signatory parties to the Rio Convention, as measured by their 1995 populations, would be
20 legally bound by the terms of an emission reduction program undertaken pursuant to the
21 proposed protocol or other amendment; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be forwarded to the
23 President of the United States and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States
24 Senate.